THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy including policy for Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector, is reviewed on a continuous basis. At present, in terms of Press Note No. 4 (2006) Series dated 10.02.2006 of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for the Petroleum Sector, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to hundred percent for all activities other than refining and including market study and formulation, investment/financing, setting up infrastructure for marketing in Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector is permissible through automatic route, subject to sectoral regulations. For the refining sector, FDI up to 26% in case of Public Sector Undertakings is permissible through Foreign Investment Promotion Board. However, FDI up to hundred percent in the refining sector is permitted through the automatic route in case of private companies. In a liberalized policy regime, the entrepreneurs are competent to take independent commercial decisions on sourcing either domestic or foreign capital for the industries of petroleum sector.

Surplus Capital with Public Sector Oil Companies

†815. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that surplus capital is lying unutilized with Public Sector Oil Companies on which interest liability is continuously increasing;

(b) if so, the amount of such capital during the year, 2007-08;

(c) the names of Oil Companies with which such capital is lying unutilized alongwith the amount thereof; and

(d) the details of loan amount outstanding against such companies in the year, 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Generally, Oil Sector PSUs invest the funds, which are not immediately required, in term deposits with various banks and financial institutions as per the guidelines laid down by the Department of Public Enterprises, with the approval of the Board of Directors. Since interest is earned on surplus funds, no interest liability is incurred on such surplus. The amount of surplus capital/cash float available with the major Oil PSUs as on 31st March, 2007 and 30th September, 2007, respectively as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

	Surplus Capital/ Cash float as on 31.3.2007	Surplus Capital/ Cash float as on 30.9.2007
ONGC	13643.00	16258.00
OIL	3566.30	4207.35
GAIL	2133.00	2750.00

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Loan amount outstanding against major Oil PSUs in the year 2007-08 were as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Name of Oil PSUs	Loan Outstanding as on 31.3.2007	Loan Outstanding as on 30.9.2007
ONGC	69.59	3.48
OIL	105.00	89.38
GAIL	1338.00	1295.00
IOCL	27083.00	27963.00
HPCL	10517.53	12126.47
BPCL	10829.24	9697.22

Progress of Indo-Pak-Iran Gas Pipeline Project

816. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made regarding gas pipeline proposed to be laid by Iran, Pakistan and India indicating whether project has been found to be feasible;

(b) whether it is a fact that USA has asked India to drop the natural gas pipeline project with Iran;

(c) if so, what is the response of Government thereto;

(d) the financial loss to India, if this pipeline plan is dropped;

(e) whether there is fresh proposal of gas pipeline project from any other country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) India has been pursuing the import of naotural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) transnational gas pipeline. The project has been found to be feasible and various important issues are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran.

(e) and (f) In order to enhance Energy Security for the country, Government is also pursuing import of natural gas from Turkmenistan through Turkmenistan- Afghanistan-Pakistan- India (TAP) Transnational Gas Pipeline Project.

The Government of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan have proposed a transnational gas pipeline to exploit the available gas reserves in Turkmenistan. They designated ADB as the lead development partner. ADB had carried out a study and approached India for participating in the project. The Cabinet has accorded an 'in principle' approval to the proposal